

U.S. Application Serial No. 10/753,867
Attorney Docket: 46536-0002
Reply to Office Action of January 4, 2005

REMARKS

This Amendment and Response is in response to the Office Action dated January 4, 2005.

Applicant has thoroughly reviewed the outstanding Office Action including the Examiner's remarks and the references cited therein. The following remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the Office Action and, when coupled with the amendments made herein, are believed to render all claims at issue patentably distinguishable over the cited references. All the changes are made for clarification and are based on the application and drawings as originally filed. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-8, 10-14, and 16-29 in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly describe the pair of axially spaced cams as disclosed in paragraphs 0018, 0019, and 0022 of the specification. This combination is not disclosed or suggested in the cited art. Claims 2 and 3 and new claim 26 depend from claim 1.

Claim 4 has been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of original claims 1 and 3 and has been amended to more clearly describe the features of the insertion tip not disclosed or suggested in the prior art. Claim 10 has been amended to depend from independent claim 4, and to remove redundant limitations.

Claim 5 has been amended to more clearly describe the overcenter camming action which resists removal as described in paragraph 0022, lines 8-12. This combination is not disclosed or suggested in the cited art. Claims 6, 13, 14, 16 and 17 depend from claim 5. Claim 6 has been amended to remove unnecessary limitations.

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Claim 7 has been written in independent form, including the limitation of original claims 5 and 6.

Claim 7 has been further amended to more clearly describe the configuration of the notch for prying the outer member, which is not shown or suggested in the art. Claim 8 depends from claim 7.

Claim 9 has been cancelled.

Claim 11 has been rewritten in independent form and has been amended to more clearly describe the spacing of the locking mechanism from the cam, as disclosed in the specification in Paragraph 022, in which the upper and lower projections are axially spaced and may function as cams to separate the cams and as locks to restrict motion from the coupled position. New claims 27, 28 (27) and 29 depend from claim 11.

Claim 12 has been rewritten in independent form and amended to clarify that the two locking mechanisms restrain relative motion between the sleeve head and the inner member. There is no suggestion in the cited art for the claimed combination. The cited art, Meyer (U.S. Patent No. 5,775,860) does not address the same problem, and secures against motion of the inner member relative only to the outer member.

Claim 15 has been cancelled.

Claim 18 has been rewritten in independent form and amended to more clearly describe the function of the axially spaced projections. This is not disclosed or suggested in the cited art. New claims 23 and 24 depend from claim 18.

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Claim 19 has been amended to more clearly describe the spaced relationship between the locking mechanism and the cam. This is not disclosed or suggested in the cited art. Claims 20, and new claims 21 (20) and 22 depend from claim 19.

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CONCLUSION

In light of the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that Applicant has responded in a fully satisfactory manner to all matters at issue in this Application, and that this Application is now in condition for allowance. In this regard, Applicant has made every effort to comply with the requirements set forth in the Office Action as well as the statutory requirements. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner allow the pending claims and pass the Application to issue. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 433-7570.

Applicant believes there are no fees due for this document, however, if any fees are due, the Patent Office is authorized to charge or refund any fee deficiency or excess to Deposit Account No. 04-1061 in the name of Dickinson Wright PLLC.

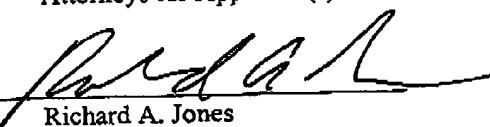
Prompt and favorable consideration of this response is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: May 4, 2005

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